(b) the reasons for not keeping watch on promotional expenses and discount when it is obligatory to keep watch on profits;

(c) whether it is a fact that watch on profits cannot be kept without keeping a watch on promotional expenses and discounts;

(d) the reasons for which Government allow incentives to consumers by supporting the Super Bazar even out of way; and

(e) what steps are being taken to fix the ceiling of trade commission and promotional expenses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (A) No, Sir

(b) Incentive schemes and discounts offered by suppliers are being properly accounted for.

(c) Super Bazar has reported that all these components are kept in view while fixing the price and margin of profit.

(d) As a policy, Govt. of India supports consumer cooperatives including Super Bazar in view of the fact that they are considered effective instruments for supply of items of daily needs to the consumer at reasonable rates.

(e) No ceiling could be laid down as it is a legitimate trading practice.

Pending cases in State Consumer Tribunal/ Forum of Maharashtra

5247. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) how many cases of litigation are pending before the State Consumer Tribunal/Forum in the State of Maharashtra as on 1st February, 1993;

(b) what steps are being taken to expedite these cases; and

(c) what proposal Government have formulated to reduce the pending of cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution compiles the quarterly information received from the States/UT Administrations in the matter and does not compile monthly information. As per the quarterly report received from the State Government of Maharashtra for the quarter ending 31-12-93, 860 complaints and 1442 appeals are pending in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (State Commission) and 12141 cases are pending in the District Consumer Disputes Redressal fora (District fora) of Maharashtra. The pendency is not very heavy, and the progress of disposal is being monitored by the National Commission.

Distribution of Foodgrains in Tribal Areas of Maharashtra

5248. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTON be pleased to state :

(a) how many Fair Price Shops are there in the Sironcha and Aheri Taluka

of the Tribal Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is a fact that these remote tribal areas in deep forests do not get the required items of foodgrains which leads the Naxalities to exploit the sentiments of these tribals; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to see that proper supply of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System is maintained in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Government of Maharashtra has reported that there are 80 Fair Price Shops in Sironcha and 105 in Aheri Talukas of Gadchiroli District.

(b) and (c) Maharashtra Government has reported that under Special Action Plan, new Fair Price Shops have been opened in remote and inaccessible areas. To ensure regular supply of foodgrains, the scheme of doorstep delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops has been introduced in these tribal areas. Financial assistance is also being given by the State Government to needy fair price shopkeepers under Nucleus Budget Scheme.

Consumer Tribunal Benches in the Cities of Maharashtra

5249. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider setting up of the benches of the State Consumer Tribunal/Forum of Maharashtra in the cities of Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad;

(b) whether Government consider that this would reduce the pendency of the cases;

(c) if so, by when this will be done; and

(d) if not, what action Government propose to take to reduce the pendency of cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) There is no provision for setting up of benches either of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission or of the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forums under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) to (d) The Act empowers the State Governments to set up additional District Forum(s) if the State Government so desires, keeping in view increases in the workload in the District Forum.

Inclusion of new items in the list of Essential Commodities

5250. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest list of essential commodities, as on 1st February, 1994;

(b) whether consumer fora and organisations have been demanding to include many more items in the list of essential commodities;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to make such inclusion; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRI-